

House File 2462

HOUSE FILE _____
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES
(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2203)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act directing the department of human services to implement
2 child welfare diversion and mediation pilot projects.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
4 TLSB 5234HV 80
5 jp/gg/14

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1 1 Section 1. CHILD WELFARE MEDIATION PILOT PROJECTS. The
1 2 department of human services shall implement one or more child
1 3 welfare diversion and mediation pilot projects through the
1 4 offices of the county attorney. The projects shall be
1 5 implemented in separate counties commencing during the fiscal
1 6 year beginning July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005. The
1 7 purposes of the projects are to divert selected child abuse
1 8 and neglect cases that may otherwise result in a child in need
1 9 of assistance adjudication, improve permanency for children,
1 10 promote family unification, and reduce state expenditures
1 11 associated with adjudication of child protection cases.
1 12 Selection of children and families for participation in a
1 13 pilot project shall be based upon diversion criteria mutually
1 14 agreed upon by the department and a pilot project. The
1 15 department shall be assisted by the pilot projects in
1 16 collecting data to analyze the effectiveness of the pilot
1 17 projects and the department shall submit an initial evaluation
1 18 to the general assembly on or before December 15, 2007. The
1 19 savings attributable to the pilot projects shall be calculated
1 20 and may be allocated to the projects as necessary to assist
1 21 with operating expenses.
1 22 Sec. 2. CHILD IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE FAMILY CASE STAFFING
1 23 PILOT PROJECT. The department of human services shall
1 24 implement a child in need of assistance family case staffing
1 25 pilot project in at least two counties. Under the pilot
1 26 project, unless the department determines that the pilot
1 27 project approach would not be in the child's best interest,
1 28 prior to a child in need of assistance petition being filed,
1 29 the department shall conduct a full case staffing for the
1 30 child's case. The staffing participants shall include but are
1 31 not limited to relevant treatment providers, the child's
1 32 parents or guardians, and other persons involved with the
1 33 child. The purposes of the pilot project are to divert
1 34 selected child abuse and neglect cases that may otherwise
1 35 result in a child in need of assistance adjudication, improve
2 1 permanency for children, promote family unification, and
2 2 reduce state expenditures associated with adjudication of
2 3 child in need of assistance cases.
2 4 HF 2462
2 5 jp/es/25